

Congress should reject this legislation and refocus its effort on initiatives that would protect the rights and privacy of American workers and strengthen the economy by creating conditions in which businesses can grow, prosper, and create jobs.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BERLIN AIRLIFT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, 60 years ago, the United States embarked on a crucial operation to sustain and defend a vulnerable entrapped people. The Berlin Airlift was a colossal strategic mission that encouraged strength and fortitude in those held captive in Berlin. Today, we honor those who designed and participated in this feat.

These brave veterans struck the first major blow in the new Cold War, forcing Stalin to lift the blockade that impoverished Germany's capitol, and thwarting the Iron Curtain's fall over the Western strongholds. The efforts of these airmen embody the highest virtues of American air defense, as they fused tactical brilliance, along with innovation and with goodness in heart, in what is seen as one of the greatest American humanitarian efforts of all time.

Our veterans provided food, coal, and medical supplies to the besieged citizens of West Berlin each day, living up to the spirit of the Greatest Generation. They led a seminal goodwill offensive that succeeded in alleviating the suffering inflicted by Stalin's regime that threatened the peace and prosperity of all those in Berlin, East Germany, as well as throughout the world.

Some creative and generous pilots even found a heartwarming way to connect with the children of Berlin during those airlifts. As they carpeted the streets of Berlin with chocolates and candy, they drew the hearts and minds of many children to goodness and liberty rather than the pervasive Communist propaganda that sought to turn them against the West.

The goodwill of this so-called "Operation Little Vittles" has carried forward to the streets of Baghdad today, where many of our soldiers relish opportunities to brighten the lives of Iraqi children as well.

As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, let us remember the veterans who exemplified our highest ideals of brilliance and innovation in air defense, and whose integrity and dedication to liberty have inspired so many vulnerable people throughout the world. Their example renews our faith in the power of freedom and goodness to prevail over tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, as the memories of World War II and the Berlin blockade fade with the passing years, I believe it

is even more important to commemorate the spirit of kindness that led our veterans to bring hope and to bring joy to the weary and beleaguered city of Berlin.

Mr. Speaker, a congressional resolution has been introduced to honor their legacy. I'm grateful for this opportunity to celebrate this noble endeavor, and I ask my colleagues to please join me in remembering and thanking those who served 60 years ago in the Berlin Airlift.

NATIONAL ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. As the summer months quickly approach and families start to plan vacations, our country continues to struggle with high energy costs. That is why the Democrats' cap-and-trade, or better known as cap-and-tax, energy plan is an irresponsible proposal that will do more harm than good. The simple truth behind the Democrats' energy plan is that it raises taxes, kills jobs, and will lead to more government intrusion in our lives.

The Democrats' energy plan is really a \$624 billion national energy tax that will hit nearly every American family. This new national energy tax will be paid by anyone who turns on a light switch or plugs in an appliance.

With Democrats still hiding many of the important details of their energy plan, a study that looked at a similar proposal estimated that the impact will be roughly \$3,100 every American household will have to pay to the Federal Government.

Also disappointing is the fact that the Democrats' national energy tax will hit the poor the hardest. Experts agree that lower-income individuals spend a greater share of their income on energy consumption. So while every American will be paying more for energy, low-income households already living on the edge of desperation will be hurt even more.

The truth is President Obama is aware of the impact his energy plan will have on American families. While still a candidate for President, then-Senator Obama said that under his cap-and-tax plan, utility rates would necessarily skyrocket and said that those costs would be passed along to consumers.

The impact of this national energy tax will not only be seen in home utility bills or at the pump, but various estimates suggest that anywhere from 1.8 million to 7 million Americans could lose their jobs as well.

Though the President is promoting green jobs that may be created by his cap-and-tax plan, any new jobs created will not come close to compensating for those lost to this reckless energy policy.

We have no greater example of the devastation the cap-and-tax system

can have on an economy than Spain. After years of promoting green jobs, Spain has the highest unemployment rate in Europe, standing at a whopping 17.5 percent.

□ 1530

Cap-and-tax has sought to be an environmentally friendly plan. The truth is that it will relocate manufacturing plants overseas to countries with far less stringent environmental regulations, in turn trading pollution to another part of the world.

Republicans are for clean air, clean water and are committed to solving our energy crisis. Republicans believe there is a better way to achieve energy independence without destroying our economy and killing jobs.

THE IMPACT OF CAP-AND-TRADE ON MANUFACTURERS USING COAL-GENERATED ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. LATTA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to have this hour with my colleagues to talk about a very, very important issue facing this country.

The issue that's facing this Congress is cap-and-tax. Why is it important? Well, as you can see from this chart right here, Cap-and-Tax Vulnerability by State. I'm from Ohio. I represent the largest manufacturing district in the State of Ohio as well as representing the largest agricultural district in the State of Ohio.

If you see from this map where it says, the vulnerability key from high, medium and low, you will see that Ohio, along with a good part of the Midwest, is all facing a very, very tough time under this proposal.

At the same time I know when I am back home, I talk to the folks; and they say, Well, who's proposing this? I say, If you look from California to Washington. You go from Washington, D.C., up the coast to Maine, that's where it is. You look at that—very low vulnerability. That concerns me. It concerns me because, as I said, manufacturing is the lifeblood in my district. I would like to talk about it for just a few minutes.

First, every week I go out in my district. I go out in that district, and I go into plants. We manufacture everything from car parts, to batteries, to windshields, to washing machines. You name it, we make it.

My district, when people say, What's your largest city? It's my hometown of about 30,000 people. So over 140 miles east to west we have a lot of small manufacturers out there. We have large manufacturers. We have a large General Motors power train plant. When you keep going across, you have a Chrysler plant. We have a furniture